

## A New Race of Leafbird from Indochina

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A study of the skins of the Leafbird *Chloropsis cochinchinensis* Gmelin from Burma, Thailand and Indochina in the United States National Museum, Washington, and the British Museum (Natural History), London, has shown some taxonomic revision to be necessary. Members of the genus *Chloropsis* are not easy to study on the museum table since, through some quality in the feathers, a slight change in the angle at which the light falls on them gives the effect of altering the tone. Both of us experienced some difficulty in laying out specimens so that the light fell consistently on them, and it was found that the most satisfactory method was to lay the skins on their sides in a row. When this was done with the males it was seen that four races can be distinguished in these countries, as follows—

1. *Chloropsis c. seri-thai* Deignan 1946, of Peninsular Thailand and north-eastern Malaya, has sapphire-blue wings, a yellow band from the lores covering the side of the neck to connect the black of the gorget with the gold suffusion of occiput, upper back and lower breast, and a heavy bill.

2. *Chloropsis c. cochinchinensis* of Cochinchina, southern Annam, Bas Laos, Cambodia, south-eastern Thailand and the south-eastern part of the eastern Siamese plateau, has the wings paler blue, the same yellow band covering the side of the neck, and a less heavy bill.

3. *Chloropsis c. chlorocephala* (Walden) 1871, of western and northern Thailand and Burma, has the wings and bill as in *cochinchinensis* but has the yellow band on the side of the neck generally duller and less distinct. (On the limited material from Assam in the British Museum it is not possible to recognise the characters ascribed to *Chloropsis c. chloereus* Koelz 1954).

4. *Chloropsis cochinchinensis* subsp. nov. of north-eastern Thailand, northern Laos and Annam, and Tonkin, has the yellow band even duller and narrower and much less gilding on the side of the neck.

Thus, while it is not easy to distinguish single specimens of the western race *chlorocephala* from *cochinchinensis* birds from northern Indochina are readily separated from both *chlorocephala* and those of the south. The relative darkness of northern birds was noted by Delacour (Oiseau 1951: 94). Thirty males and twenty females of the new northern race have been studied in comparison with large series of the other races.

We propose that the new race shall be named in honour of Sir Norman Kinnear, C.B.

*Chloropsis cochinchinensis kinneari* subsp. nov.

*Type:* ♂ Bao-Ha, Tonkin, collected by H. Stevens, 29th October 1923. In the British Museum, registered number 1924. 12. 21. 104.

*Description:* The darkest and dullest of all races of *Chloropsis cochinchinensis*. Closest to *chlorocephala* of Burma, but lacking in both males and females most of the gold suffusion on the head, neck and upper breast, and having the green of the back darker, devoid of golden suffusion: in the male having the yellow band bordering the black gorget narrow and dull.

*Range:* Tonkin: N. Annam (Phuqui; Khebon); N. Laos (Xien-Khouang); N.E. Thailand (Loei, Sakon Nakhon, and Nakhon Phanom Provinces).